

Congress.—The Pacific Railroad.—Penitents.
In looking over the reports of the proceedings in Congress on Monday and Tuesday, we find that the main interest in the Senate centered upon the Pacific Railroad bill, and in the House on a bill giving pensions to everybody almost, in any way related to, connected with, or descended from anybody that had ever fought or offered to fight in any war, past, present or future.

There can be little question of the fact that there is a majority in the Senate, and in the House, too, in favor of some Pacific Railroad; but there is very great question as to whether any particular Pacific Railroad could get a majority. Mr. Seward wants the Road to start at a high Northern latitude, and go directly across the continent in the North-Western route of emigration. Mr. Ward of Texas, of course, favors the extreme Southern route through his State. Between these extremes there are several intermediate routes. If the friends of all these routes, and of all the points indicated as Eastern termini, can be got to agree—to consolidate their interests, we must confess that we see no chance of preventing the passage of almost any sort of a bill, to build almost any sort of a Road—for military purposes.

Then there is another cause of disagreement. Some of the Railroad advocates want any bill so amended as to provide that all the iron used on such Railroad should be of American manufacture. The bill, as presented by Mr. Gwyn, provides for this, if American iron of the same quality can be delivered for the same price, all things included. The Protectionists and the Free Traders must not quite agree. In fact, Mr. Clingman, and some other Southern Senators lean to the admission of Railroad iron free of duty. We go so far in this direction as to agree with Mr. Clingman, that if there be any one article which it is important to make free of duty it is Railroad iron. We have before, and frequently, stated our objection to discriminations. The iron that goes to make the implements of the farmer, or the tools of the mechanic, is entitled to stand on as fair a basis as that which bears the locomotive and the train.

As for this pension business it has been run in the ground. There is no end to it, and little or no object but Buncombe; and we cannot but look upon it as rather inclining towards—well we won't say, exactly, but we think. The military service confers immortality. If a bill were passed to give so much to each of the survivors of the old French war, there would be survivors plenty, and if it extended to descendants every body's grandfather would soon be proved to have fought like a Trojan.

The office of State Geologist has been abolished. We do not object. We do not know any good that has resulted from the existence of such an office, at least in hands of Professor EMMONS, a gentleman whose name, like that of faith, is the evidence of things unseen—at least by the people of this State. We don't know exactly where Mr. EMMONS lives, moves and has his being. But for occasional reports which he makes, when touched off, we should be inclined to regard EMMONS as a myth, and to question his actual existence for other purposes than the important one of drawing a salary. Professor EMMONS may know something about North Carolina, but North Carolina knows nothing about Professor EMMONS. We once got so far as to give a man that had enjoyed the felicity of seeing the "Great Unknown" who maintains so strict an incoherence during his visits to different portions of the State, that there be persons, ourselves among the number, who seriously question whether he has ever really visited any part of the State, for the purpose of actual examination of any other deposit than the auriferous one supposed to exist in the State Treasury.

Some folks say that Professor EMMONS invented Deep River, or, at least, that he found out and made known to the world the richness of its mineral deposits. The practical miners who have spent time and money up there know better, and will tell you better.

Mr. EMMONS may be a very considerable person—may have been a remarkably useful officer as State Geologist, but we confess to incredulity on both points—at any rate we have no tears to shed now. We bear his loss with patience and resignation. We can still imagine Mr. EMMONS something on the DEUS EX MACHINA order, waiting for despatches, a serious and self-respecting man—invisible and unapproachable, who must have made subterranean tours and examinations of the State, or penetrated into the bowels of the land in a mysterious and unaccountable manner, beyond the comprehension of mere mortals.

Then fare thee well, and if forever.
Then forever fare thee well:
If still returning, never
"Gone" mine absence shall our pen rebel.

Retirement in price.
P. S. It would appear from the report in our paper to-day, that there is some hitch about this thing, and that it has not yet been done. That is no reason why it should not.

We had the pleasure this morning of meeting our friend and Commoner, R. K. BRYAN, Esq., who has availed himself of the leave of absence granted to the members until after the First, to come home to visit his family, see to his business, and see his friends. We are happy to find Mr. Bryan's health good—much better, indeed, than we had been led to fear, from some rumors founded upon a temporary indisposition of a day or two. We anticipate the pleasure of meeting also with our Senator and other Commoner during the semi-vacation of the holidays.

Congress also stands adjourned for ten days, and the Senators and Representatives have holiday all that time. Our weekly contemporaries throughout the country portion of the State come to us with announcements, that in order to permit the hands engaged in their offices, and so forth, to participate in the festivities, and so forth, of Christmas, and so forth, no paper will be issued that week, and so forth. Now, we enjoy the easy, cool way in which all this is done—we admire it none the less because of its being inevitable, at least by us. We get one whole day—before and after, our nose is kept to the grindstone. We intend, however, to be liberal this year—inasmuch as Christmas comes on Saturday, we have come to the conclusion to give the hands in our office holiday for the next day, too. They need not come to work before Monday.

Our weekly subscribers will find no detention or omission on account of holiday or any thing else. The weekly edition of the Journal is now in its thirtieth year, and during that time not one paper has been missed from any cause whatever, nor has one single issue ever failed to be placed in the mail at its due time.

Daily Journal of yesterday.

We have been not a little amused by hearing of some remarks recently made in the House of Commons, by Ex-Governor Morehead, upon a communication which appeared sometime since in the Journal, from an occasional, perhaps we should say, a casual correspondent. That correspondent, dating from Raleigh, and signing himself Double X. Y. gave some good sketches of certain permanent members—a good-humored sketch certainly. The Governor found out that the thing was published just in time to reach Raleigh before the taking of a certain vote, and so forth, as though intended to have some effect with members. Nothing could be farther from the fact. The communication had been delayed on the way, was not published at the time intended, and was as innocent of ulterior object as any thing could possibly be. Its very writing was unknown to us until it reached us. The Governor found quite a mare's nest.

The Fayetteville Observer seizes upon and republishes with comments a semi-serious article which recently appeared in the Journal headed, "A Suggestion." For our own part we are perfectly willing to leave that article as it is without explanation or apology. We trust there are few among the readers of the Journal so dull as not to take the article as it is obviously meant, or so disinclined as to torture its meaning for the purpose of discovering some tremendous and unheard of malice and ferocity on the part of the writer.

With the Observers motives, in its very peculiar allusion to our article, we do not care to meddle, as we fear that the attempt to characterize them, as they really appear to us, might compel us to resort to the use of harsh or language that we are just now to employ. Leaving motive out of the question, however, the Observer assumes as a fact, that for which it finds no warrant in the article upon which it predicates its remarks. The article in question was mainly elicited by the failure of the Fayetteville and Coalfields bill, which might easily have been seen from its tenor. However, it is a matter of perfect indifference to us whether the Observer thinks so or not. We do not expect it to put a favorable or a fair construction upon anything here, and indeed the tone of some of its recent effusions would lead us to suppose that it regards this unfortunate village of ours as totally given up to depravity and all manner of meanness, which is really painful, but cannot be helped; and furthermore, it seems anxious to impress upon the "rest of mankind" that the very good natured editors of the Journal are anxious to kill and slay, not to say cat, Legislators and other people generally. We deny the self-implication. We don't want to have any body killed, not even the Editors of the Observer, nor do we want them to precipitate their mortal bodies into the Cape Fear on account of the fishes.

The Observer says Wilmington used to be the pet of the State, &c. If so, why should she not now be?—Has she ceased to pay the largest tax? Has the State had to pay a cent of interest on the bonds endorsed for any of her Railroad Companies? Do not her works, alone, offer to the State dividends, and the prospect of full remuneration? So far six hundred thousand dollars is all that the State has taken in two Wilmington Roads, extending nearly three hundred and fifty miles, while in the Atlantic Road, not much over a hundred miles, she has taken something like two million and in the N. C. Central of 222 miles, she has some four millions, or nearly so. And yet we hear talk about all that Wilmington has got. Why, Fayetteville asks as much for her 45 mile Road to the Coalfields as Wilmington—formerly the pet of the State—has got all told. It is the one of sneers and demagogues to endeavor to excite prejudice against Wilmington—to represent her as having fattened upon the spoils of the State. This is not so, as a reference to facts will show, and as has, indeed, been shown before by such reference.

Our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to John Kuner for the deference he has paid to our feelings in avoiding any premature appearance on the present interesting occasion. John is a colored person, and will, we trust, continue to lie low and keep dark. No doubt Kunerism may have its charms by association with those scenes of youth when every sport could please; but per se, individually and on his own hook, John Kuner is a very foolish, stupid, uninteresting, tawdry, bedraggled, bad-singing, awkward dancing darkey, and the attempts at female Johns are still worse.

In some respects John reminds us of the old-time character during the month of March—he comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Or he resembles a tropical squall that comes on butt-end foremost. The first day or two John is numerous—John is a composite person—a corporation of grown up niggers, with many ripens, some attempt at originality and a sort of song describing the grand interview between "Bo Bill" and "De Cap'n ob de Guard," the latter of whom is supposed to have rather "got" the former. Perhaps, competition which is the life of trade, starts another crowd and so the Kuner carnival progresses in a manner and style the match of which never was seen on the Corso at Rome. As the holidays progress and the crop of quarters and dimes grows light, John curtails his expenses and reduces his establishment. He appears as a corporation of half-grown Africans, still cowering with energy, but less conspicuous and with a smaller attendance. The reduction goes on until finally John makes his last appearance for the season in the shape of a little eight-year old nigger with an unclean nose, and a piece of red calico pinned on to the protruding end of his shirt-tail—when he has a shirt. His form attempts at dancing in front of some unattended house, are mournful indeed and teach us a painful lesson, while they furnish us with a striking illustration of the fate of fallen greatness.

Financial Report of the Treasurer of the Town of Wilmington.

We have before us, in the shape of an extra sheet, accompanying the Daily Herald of yesterday, the above interesting statement of the business and finances of the town of Wilmington, in its corporate capacity, during the last twelve months.

It exhibits in separate columns the bills of 1857 paid in 1858—the bills of 1858 paid in 1858, with each several bill and its amount stated. From this it appears that there have been paid within 1858 debts of 1857 amounting to \$15,295.38; that there is due to the Town proper from taxes, assessments, market notes, advances to Town Hall, etc., a sum amounting to \$52,679.96, and that the town owes or will owe by the first of January in the shape of Bank Debt, money borrowed of John Dawson, Esq., salaries of Guards, etc., \$26,398.27, showing a surplus in favor of Town proper of \$26,281.69.

The town owns a Bank Debt in addition to the above of \$17,400 for Town Hall account. Amount of Interest on Town Bonds due 1st January, \$731.50; there has been Town Bonds issued for work, etc., on Town Hall to amount of \$20,900.00, leaving a balance for issue of \$29,100.

Since closing the statement, Mr. Cowan has paid into the Town Treasury \$1,881.12.

This is one of the most elaborate, carefully prepared and satisfactory statements of municipal finances, receipts, credits and indebtedness, that we have ever seen. It is certainly, in the language of the Herald, "the largest and most complete exposition of the town affairs of any that has ever been published, and to his Honor, the Mayor, much credit is due for his efforts in producing this result."

In the statement submitted, the outstanding debts of the town are stated at \$150, and this, we have reason to think, is a large figure, so that, in fact, our people may be said to have the actual state of their finances laid before them to a dollar. This has been at the cost of much labor on the part of the Mayor, who has devoted himself to it with an energy and ability beyond all praise.

By the way, our neighbors of the Herald have "got up" the printed sheet in very good style.

The Administration of James Buchanan.
Messrs. Editors: We herewith inclose a resolution unanimously adopted in a meeting of the Democratic members of the General Assembly, convened in the Hall of the House of Commons, on Friday night, the 21st inst., John S. Dancy, Esq., of Edgecombe, in the chair; and request that in obedience to the 2d resolution, the Standard and other Democratic papers will publish the same, to wit:
Resolved, That we have unabated confidence in the Administration of James Buchanan, and tender to him our thanks for his fidelity to the Constitution and the rights of the States.
Resolved, That the Secretaries furnish a copy of the resolution passed by this meeting to the N. C. Standard for publication, with the request that the Democratic newspapers of the State will copy.
ED. CANTWELL, Secretary.
QUENT. BUSBEE, Secretary.

The Internal Improvement men in South Carolina are quite excited over the defeat of the bill for extending further aid to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, which came up in the Senate that day on Monday last and was defeated by a vote of 22 yeas to 19 nays. The bill proposed that the State should guarantee the bonds of the Road to the amount of \$1,000,000. An amendment was offered and adopted, reducing the amount to \$500,000, and then the bill as amended was lost by three votes; so that work stops. The South Carolinian, like the widows of Ashur, is "loud in its wail," and there be much disgruntlement. Economy is the order of the day.

SHORT DAYS.—We would remind our readers, that if these be not "the melancholy days, the saddest of the year," they are at least the short days—the shortest of the year—*vide* TURNER'S N. C. Almanac. We offer this as a piece of information of which our readers can make any use they please—we charge nothing extra for it. Gas bills are only turds about now.

Hon. JOHN MINOR BURG has been solicited to run for Governor of Virginia, in opposition to Mr. LETCHER, but declines. Sensible man—don't want to get badly "flaxed out."

The Legislature of N. C. refuses to raise the salaries of the Judges.

They had a Shad in Savannah (Ga.) on Monday last.

North Carolina Legislature.
[Reported Expressly for the Journal.]

MONDAY, Dec. 20.—SENATE.—A resolution instructing the committee on Education and the Literary Fund to consider the propriety of requiring Boards of Supervisors of Common Schools to invest surplus school funds in their hands was adopted.

The second Saturday in January was set apart for the appointment of Justices of the Peace.

Mr. McDowell introduced a bill to prohibit the emancipation of slaves by Will and Testament. Referred.

Mr. Edney, by leave, presented a bill to amend the act relating to the Wilmington Light Infantry, passed its 2d and 3d reading and was ordered to be enrolled.

The Coalfields bill was made the special order for January 4th.

The Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford bill, special order for January 4th.

The bill for the distribution of small silver coins was rejected. Also, the bill to increase the salaries of Superior Court Judges—29 to 7.

The bill to amend the charter of the Western N. C. R. R., made the special order for January 6th.

The bill to prohibit Judges from exchanging Circuits was rejected.

The bill to establish the county of King, rejected.

The bill to give a majority of Directors to the individual stockholders in the Atlantic, North Carolina, and Western N. C. Roads was under discussion when the Senate adjourned at 2 o'clock.

No other business of interest.

In the House, to-day, not a single bill introduced. Several resolutions were presented and referred to the requesting Judiciary committee to inquire into the propriety of amending the Constitution as to elect Judges of Supreme and Superior Courts, Attorney General and Solicitors by the people.

A motion to inquire into the right of Solicitors, Postmasters, Trustees of University, Bank Directors, Railroads, Directors of the State, to hold a seat in the Legislature, was indefinitely postponed, but I think the same will probably come up in separate resolutions, as there seems to be some feeling in the matter.

A bill to open the Yaquina River to the passage of fish, was discussed for about two hours, and then passed its 2d reading.

A bill to amend the powers of the New River Navigation Company was received from the Senate, and the rules being suspended, passed its 2d reading.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, of New Hanover, a bill was taken up to incorporate the Buckhorn Navigation Company, and it passed its 3d reading.

A long debate occurred on a bill concerning the disabilities mentioned in sec. 1, chap. 65 of the Revised Code, pending a vote on which the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Dec. 21.—SENATE.—All important business is being postponed till after the Christmas holidays. A number of unimportant bills reported on, and a batch of engrossed bills received from the House—the latter read first time and referred.

Mr. Houston presented memorials from sundry citizens of Wilmington, relative to overpaid taxes. Referred to the Committee on claims.

The unfinished business of yesterday—the bill relative to Boards of Directors of certain Railroads, was postponed till Monday, January 3d.

The bill to amend the charter of the Bank of Cape Fear passed the third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to abolish the office of State Geologist was postponed till the 1st of January by a vote of 34 to 6.

The special order of the bill to enlarge the powers of married women—led to an animated legal discussion between Messrs. Houston and Donnell. Mr. Donnell offered an amendment, and on motion of Mr. Houston the bill and amendment were recommitted.

In the House, to-day, two bills were introduced, and those of no great importance. A long debate occurred on a resolution by Mr. Fairbairn, to inquire into the right by which Mr. Settle is charged with being a county Solicitor; Messrs. Settle, Kerr and Morehead with being Trustees of the University; Messrs. Dorch and Thompson with being Railroad Directors; Messrs. Foy and Reeves with being, or having been at the time of their election, Postmasters; and Mr. Baxter with having been, at the time of his election, Clerk and Master in Equity, for the county of Currituck.

Motions to postpone indefinitely, and to lay on the table, were rejected and the resolution passed.

The Danville Connection came up as a special order, and Mr. Morehead occupied the time until the hour of adjournment came. It will come up as unfinished business to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 22.—SENATE.—Mr. Mills offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to enquire into the propriety of enacting a law to prevent the sale of adulterated liquors. Referred.

Mr. Carmichael, a resolution relative to capital punishments—with a view to making them private.

Mr. Leach, a bill for the better regulation of the banks of the State.

The bill relative to Wills and Testaments passed its 2d reading.

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The bill to require the Clerks of Assembly to take an oath of office, was indefinitely postponed—27 to 6.

Resolution of Council of State.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Council of State: John A. Aivrett, Duplin; John L. Bridges, Edgecombe; Jesse A. Wagh, Forsyth; Pleasant M. Powell, Richmond; Wm. J. Yates, Mecklenburg; Dr. Columbus Mills, Polk.

The Senate vote stood—for the above, 22; 11 for the opposition. The opposition ticket was as follows: Lewis Thompson, Bertie; Fred. Grant, Beaufort; Wm. F. Marsh, Pitt; A. G. Foster, Randolph; J. H. Pritchett, Brunswick; A. Mitchell, Wilkes; Col. W. M. Walton, Burke. Adjourned.

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The Whigs voted for seven others.

A bill to incorporate the Wilmington Ocean Steam Navigation Company; a bill to incorporate the Kinston Female Seminary, and a bill to incorporate the town of Kenansville, all passed their 2d reading.

On motion of Mr. Bryan, of New Hanover, a bill concerning auctioneers, was taken up and passed its 3d reading.

A bill to charter the New River Navigation Company passed its 2d reading.

The House then adjourned. But little business will be done before the end of the session. No doubt numbers of the members will visit your town, as I learn that the gentlemanly President of your Road (Hon. W. S. Ashe) has tendered them the privilege of a free ride.

For the Journal.
RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 1858.
Messrs. Editors:—A correspondent at Raleigh of Washington, City who makes general remarks, cannot write to "Amaze" and keep you posted up to the day with every detail; the attempt would needlessly fatigue him and be wearisome to your readers. The rapid record must be left to the regular reporter, who gives it quite faithfully, although "currente calamo." I propose therefore to give you another mission, and if I am not up to date precisely, I may presume upon furnishing it in such shape and scope as will probably prove of equal interest to the condensed record.

The papers here have said but little about the caucus meeting which passed two resolutions endorsing and praising the present Administration. In the first place, it is alleged that the meeting was called by some indiscreet friends of Mr. Douglas, with a view to committing and congratulating him upon his late success in Illinois, a success they believe, could not have been achieved by any other living statesman. The event proved they were more zealous as friends of the Little Giant, than wise as democrats. When the caucus convened, there were numbers present, who, even if they admired Mr. Douglas, would rather that he should take a prudent direct course, than to be misled by an indiscretion in the form of an ovation to him. They saw, as every reflecting person must see, that any public demonstration just at this particular juncture, with the sole object and design of flattering the distinguished Senator, would be tantamount to an open declaration against it to be a rebuke to the Administration. Seeing this, and reflecting upon the simple common sense of Mr. Buchanan and his coadjutors of the cabinet, they were exactly as it ought to have been. There is no call just now for any public manifestation in this State favorable to Mr. Douglas. No matter how sincerely he may be admired, nor how warmly he may be esteemed, there is nothing in the present aspect of affairs, rendering it necessary as a party measure, to get up a demonstration. The presence "in propria persona" of Mr. D. in several Southern States has very naturally excited considerable enthusiasm in his behalf, but there is no such excitement in Raleigh.

Do not infer from all this, that the friends of Mr. Douglas are secure in their position. They are neither few nor obscure; and many of them at that meeting, voted down the Douglas movement and for the action which was had. It would astonish you to know the full extent of the Douglas feeling here, a feeling however kept in abeyance to the obligations of party. And let me assure you, that it is not held that a person disfranchises himself of any of the privileges of citizenship, by the exercise of democracy, on account of the fervor of his admiration for Mr. Douglas. Persons violently opposed to him may as well prepare their minds and their complacency for his increasing popularity; already his warmer and more sanguine friends begin to ask, "which is the greater departure from the strict canons of our party, his views of the Kansas question and Dred Scott decision, or Mr. Buchanan's ideas in defense of the Union?" The expansion of the constitution so as to embrace the construction of the Pacific Railroad? For the writer's part, the views of neither on said issues are palatable to him; but while this is the fact, and while he (as all good democrats must) disapproves the mention of gentlemen's names in connection with the Presidency so early as this, he is not prepared to formulate denunciations by the exercise of democracy, on account of the fervor of his admiration among members of the Legislature, to vote for Railroad schemes in any quarter; and the truth is, members are about half right, unless there were greater development of the States' means from Railroads already constructed and a greater disposition to raise the taxes "perri passu," with the States' enhanced obligations on the Internal Revenue, to hold a seat in the Legislature. The bill to amend the charter of the Western N. C. R. R., made the special order for January 6th.

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RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 1858.
Messrs. Editors:—A correspondent at Raleigh of Washington, City who makes general remarks, cannot write to "Amaze" and keep you posted up to the day with every detail; the attempt would needlessly fatigue him and be wearisome to your readers. The rapid record must be left to the regular reporter, who gives it quite faithfully, although "currente calamo." I propose therefore to give you another mission, and if I am not up to date precisely, I may presume upon furnishing it in such shape and scope as will probably prove of equal interest to the condensed record.

The papers here have said but little about the caucus meeting which passed two resolutions endorsing and praising the present Administration. In the first place, it is alleged that the meeting was called by some indiscreet friends of Mr. Douglas, with a view to committing and congratulating him upon his late success in Illinois, a success they believe, could not have been achieved by any other living statesman. The event proved they were more zealous as friends of the Little Giant, than wise as democrats. When the caucus convened, there were numbers present, who, even if they admired Mr. Douglas, would rather that he should take a prudent direct course, than to be misled by an indiscretion in the form of an ovation to him. They saw, as every reflecting person must see, that any public demonstration just at this particular juncture, with the sole object and design of flattering the distinguished Senator, would be tantamount to an open declaration against it to be a rebuke to the Administration. Seeing this, and reflecting upon the simple common sense of Mr. Buchanan and his coadjutors of the cabinet, they were exactly as it ought to have been. There is no call just now for any public manifestation in this State favorable to Mr. Douglas. No matter how sincerely he may be admired, nor how warmly he may be esteemed, there is nothing in the present aspect of affairs, rendering it necessary as a party measure, to get up a demonstration. The presence "in propria persona" of Mr. D. in several Southern States has very naturally excited considerable enthusiasm in his behalf, but there is no such excitement in Raleigh.

Do not infer from all this, that the friends of Mr. Douglas are secure in their position. They are neither few nor obscure; and many of them at that meeting, voted down the Douglas movement and for the action which was had. It would astonish you to know the full extent of the Douglas feeling here, a feeling however kept in abeyance to the obligations of party. And let me assure you, that it is not held that a person disfranchises himself of any of the privileges of citizenship, by the exercise of democracy, on account of the fervor of his admiration for Mr. Douglas. Persons violently opposed to him may as well prepare their minds and their complacency for his increasing popularity; already his warmer and more sanguine friends begin to ask, "which is the greater departure from the strict canons of our